

# **Town of Windsor**

## **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**

### **ANNEX**

#### **Introduction**

The Town of Windsor is a small-sized Town in Sonoma County, California. The Town has a population of about 25,000 people, based on State of California estimates. Census 2000 census<sup>1</sup> information on the Town is available at this link. Last year, the Town's budget was \$20.9 million. The Town employs about 110 full time and part-time people as well as a number of contract employees. While the Town contracts with Sonoma County for local police services, two separate and independent fire districts supply the fire services.

#### **The Planning Process**

This process of preparing this plan was familiar to the Town of Windsor. The Town has a Safety Element to its General Plan last adopted in 1996 that includes discussions of fire, earthquake, flooding, and landslide hazards. In addition, the Town routinely enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards). The Town's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

Many of the activities conducted by the Town were fed into the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. The Town participated in various ABAG workshops and meetings, including the general "kick-off" meeting and the soft-story charrette. In addition, the Town has provided written and oral comments on the multi-jurisdictional plan. Finally, the Town provided information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

Key Town staff met to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the Town. Staff involved in this meetings included the Planning Director, Building Official, Public Works Director, Administrative Services Director, and Police Chief. At the meeting, the general priorities and appropriate Town departments were identified, and further, identified preliminary budgets and potential funding sources for strategies designed as "High" priority. The Town provided the opportunity for the public to comment on the Draft mitigation strategies selected by Town staff at the Town Council meeting on September 21, 2005. The resolution adopting the plan and strategies was on the Town Council agenda for September 21, 2005. The mitigation strategies will become an implementation appendix to this Safety Element.

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<sup>1</sup> For complete Census information on this Town, see <http://www.bavareacensus.ca.gov/>.

## Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought). Except for tsunamis, these hazards also impact this community. Tsunamis do not impact the Town of Windsor because the Town is more than 30 miles from the Pacific Ocean with an intervening mountain range.

While the Town has undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities since the first Safety Element was prepared by the Town, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

The Town has had a number of landslides in the hills on the east side of the Town, including one that damaged 12 homes in 1980. This additional hazard information was included at the Town Council meeting held on, 2005.

Information on disasters declared in Sonoma County is at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The Town examined the hazard exposure of Town urban land based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 4,204 urban acres in the Town,

- ◆ 277 acres are in the 100-year flood plain, while an additional 239 acres are in the 500-year flood plain;
- ◆ 712 acres are subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 12 acres are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ 1,482 acres are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 2,294 acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential, in large part because the Rogers Creek Fault extension of Hayward Fault that runs past the eastern side of the Town;
- ◆ 11 acres are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat (because of the urban nature of the Town), but 1,340 acres are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

The Rogers Creek Fault is mapped and located east of the Town corporate limits. The fault is not mapped within the Town boundary limits or Sphere of Influence.

The Town also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 106 miles of roadway in the Town,

- ◆ 4 miles of roadway are in the 100-year flood plain, while an additional 6 miles are in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ 2 miles of roadway is in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ no roads are in areas of existing landslides;

- ◆ 42 miles of roadway are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ no roadways are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ while no miles of roadway are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat, 29 miles of roads are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

Finally, the Town examined the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and Town-owned buildings based on the information on ABAG's website at

<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the critical facilities in the Town,

- ◆ no critical health care facilities, schools, or Town-owned facilities are in either the 100-year flood plain or in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ no critical health care facilities, schools, or Town-owned facilities are in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ no critical health care facilities, schools, or Town-owned facilities are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ while no critical health care facilities, or Town-owned facilities are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility, 2 schools are located in these areas;
- ◆ 7 schools and 1 health care facility in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ 4 schools are the only critical facilities in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

In spite of the areas of the Town located in flood-prone areas only 2 repetitive loss properties in the Town have filed claims based on the information at

<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>.

The Town is subject to periodic drought conditions as part of the climacteric cycle for the region. Since the Town is a domestic drinking water provider, the Windsor Water Master Plan contains mitigation programs for providing drinking water during drought conditions. The Town will be working with ABAG, the Sonoma County Water Agency, and the various other water supply agencies on this issue.

The Town plans to work with ABAG during 2005 to improve the risk assessment information being compiled by ABAG by providing information on unreinforced masonry buildings and soft-story apartments located in the Town.

In summary, the major potential disaster impacts to the Town are flood and earthquake effects. The Town through its cooperative disaster planning agencies including the Windsor Fire District and the Sonoma County Office of Emergency Services has done extensive planning to mitigate disasters. The Town plans to work with ABAG and other agencies in developing additional information and refer to ABAG's Annex that specifically states that ABAG will be doing this in 2005 through early 2006. As these impacts are not fully developed, the Town has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts.

## **Mitigation Activities and Priorities**

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, Town of Windsor staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed at a meeting of the Town Police Chief, Building Official, Public Works Director, Planning Director, and Administrative Services Director on February 9, 2005. In addition, representatives of the fire district were invited to this meeting, but chose not to attend. At the meeting, all of the mitigation strategies were reviewed. The tentative decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies are existing Town programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to the Town Manager for review. The draft priorities were then provided to the Town Council on September 21, 2005. The public was provided with an opportunity to comment on the Draft priorities. The final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become an *Implementation Appendix* to the Town's *Safety Element*.

In addition, the Town examined the hazard exposure information to Town-owned critical facilities supplied by ABAG. The Town has determined not to apply for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant at this time.

In the Town of Windsor, many of the strategies are existing programs already a part of the planning process through Plan and Project Review, building and fire code enforcement, and development of the Town's General Plan. New activities identified, as part of this Annex will be incorporated into these existing mechanisms. For example, the scheduled update of the General Plan Housing Element, the Downtown Plan, zoning, and other Town planning efforts will expand the existing programs. Other activities will require funds that have not been identified. The Town will be working to identify potential funding sources, including capital improvement budgets, bond issues, and federal or state grants.

## **Plan Maintenance and Updating Process**

The Town of Windsor is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The Town Planning Director will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the Town again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The Town of Windsor will ensure that monitoring of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG, as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of Town department heads at least once a year in April. At that meeting, the department heads will focus on evaluating the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

The public will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated and, as appropriate, during the monitoring and evaluation process. For example, the updating of the General Plan Safety Element will address additional measures to mitigate disasters. Town staff will continue to monitor disaster issues and take appropriate actions. All public comments will be reviewed. Publicly initiated and Town Council supported changes will be integrated into the plan updates whenever reasonable.